

L. H. H. H.

Rural District of Louth

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

The Year 1957



T. E. WIGGEN AND SON, LTD.
THE PRINTERIES
LOUTH

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Louth Rural District Council

1957—58

Chairman of the Council :

Councillor R. MARTIN

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

Councillor S. A. MOSSOP

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS COMMITTEE

Chairman :

Councillor J. H. V. WHITE

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor D. R. WEBB

Councillor J. T. Baumber	Councillor S. A. Mossop
Councillor E. S. Brant	Councillor H. Plaskitt
Councillor F. Coxon	Councillor F. Rush
Councillor E. A. Davy	Councillor R. Stephenson
Councillor R. H. Dixon	Councillor P. J. Stokes
Councillor Miss E. H. Farnsworth	Councillor Mrs. A. Stone
Councillor F. Fowler	Councillor N. B. Stovin
Councillor A. Frankum	Councillor Mrs. C. V. Stubbs
Councillor C. Gillot	Councillor J. W. Stubbs
Councillor E. E. Luck	Councillor G. E. Towler
Councillor Rev. J. A. N. Mackay	Councillor S. R. Waller
Councillor R. Martin	Councillor R. E. West

To the Chairman and Members of the Louth Rural District Council.

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1957 dealing with health conditions and the work connected with our environmental services in the district during the year.

The term vital statistics these days is understood better as a music hall joke than in its association with public health matters. The measurements to which the statistics relate in a report of this nature should, however, not be devoid of interest, because they provide an assessment of the health and welfare standards of the community, much in the same way as laboratory reports appraise the standard of the samples we submit and then serve as a guide for whatever action is required

It is useful once in a while, especially in the more recent times when the spotlight remains fixed on the spectacular results of the modern wonder drugs, to cast a backward glance and note the progress made in the field of public health when other forms of medical attention lacked the means of assisting the effort. To assess the progress, we have to call on the vital statistics. If we take the year 1870, the general death rate that year for the nation was 180 and the infant mortality rate 160; and both rates remained practically the same at the beginning of the present century. Associated with this human wastage were the horrific conditions of life in disease ridden houses, the dependance of the community on contaminated water supplies, and the dangers arising from uncontrolled sewage and dirt nuisances; all of which contributed their quota to the recurrent devastation produced by epidemics of typhus, typhoid, enteritis and all the rest. Against this background we can better appreciate the following statistical figures for the district for 1957.

Birth Rate	18.3
Still Birth Rate	26.06
General Death Rate	10.06
Infant Death Rate	23.4

It is of interest, too, to mention that the infant death rate in the district, taken as an average for the decades 1938/47 and 1948/57 were respectively 44.7 and 27.3 and this rate is regarded as the most sensitive index of community care.

Needless to mention, the improvement in conditions affecting these ratings did not evolve as natural phenomena, but resulted from the interest in, and understanding of, problems by the sanitary authority and the efforts of their officers to eradicate the danger spots and health hazards from the environmental scene. The sanitary inspectors had the greatest share in effecting

the general clean up and improvement by their constant vigilance in the field work. In the course of time it was found that improvements in environmental hygiene were by themselves insufficient to reduce the toll of invalidism and death which resulted from other specific causes ; and so, came into being the personal health services in the form of maternal and child care, school health provisions and services for dealing with tuberculosis and venereal disease. These were administered by the local health authority in co-operation with the continued efforts of the district council giving attention to matters on the environmental plane. In preventive medicine, results are near spectacular, because of their gradual emergence, and so we are reaping to-day the fruits of earlier planning and the effort that was put into it and continues to be done. The slashing of death rates and the reduction of infectious disease supply the proof of public health measures, though it does not require the backing of statistics to witness the robust healthiness of the present generation of children. Nor must the larger contribution of the treatment services of more recent times be overlooked in this endeavour, which has succeeded in prolonging and making life safer and happier for the majority. There are still gaps in the armour which require attention and demand no relaxation of effort so as to allow succeeding generations to think in terms of health as a natural expectation rather than being concerned with the fear of disease and disability.

Getting away from generalities, we see to-day the countryman being provided with the basic environmental needs that have so long been accepted as a necessary part of town life. Pure water supplies have at last been made available over most of our rural district ; and important also is the fact that the public conscience has been aroused about seeking means of coping with unsatisfactory supplies which remain temporarily or indefinitely outside the Council's current planning schemes. The town-country form of apartheid is much more marked by the slow government response for encouraging the provision of proper sewerage systems in rural villages. One may be excused sometimes for thinking that the emphasis placed on other kinds of supervisory work by legislation is somewhat out of alignment when such basic requirements remain unsatisfied. Already the Council's interest in district housing matters is beginning to show itself in the housing standard. Although we are still at the early stages of clearing the worst properties, the future pattern is beginning to take shape, not only through rehousing, but also as a result of the policy pursued by the Council to encourage dwellings being modernized by means of improvement grants.

Co-incident with these activities, the public health inspectors have, as well, been busy during their rounds of the countryside

endeavouring to improve the standard of food hygiene in the community, with results that are evident by the visual improvements of premises. This, of course, is only part of the effort which is designed to arouse the responsibility of the food handler at all times in his job and whip up the interest of the public as well. We are indebted to the reinforcement of the inspectors' efforts by the helpful publicity given by our local press for stimulating interest in food hygiene matters.

The details of the year's working are shown in the following pages, and to Mr. Shone and the other public health inspectors, whose work in the field and the office so largely contributed to the successful running of our services, I am deeply indebted for their loyal help as well as to the Clerk and his staff for their full co-operation. I take advantage also of this privileged occasion to express my grateful thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their active interest and support accorded at all times, which have done much to encourage the staff effort.

W. J. KERRIGAN,

Medical Officer of Health

Louth Lincs. September, 1958

LOUTH RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary Conditions for the Year 1957.

Public Health Officers :

Medical Officer of Health :

W. J. KERRIGAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor :

S. SHONE, A.R. San. I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and Asst. Surveyor :

P. CHILD, A.R. San.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

D.St. John FROST, A.R. San.I. (Resigned 21-1-57)

C WILDING A.R. San.I.

H. W. GILLIAN, A.R.San.I. (Appointed 10-7-57)

SECTION A

Social Conditions and General Statistics.

Area of Rural District, in Acres	...	...	153,129
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population			18,600
Density of population per acre	...	...	0.12
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1957	...	...	5,609
Rateable Value of Inhabited Houses	...	...	£142,371
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	£594

VITAL STATISTICS

(Note—Figures in brackets show corresponding rates for England and Wales).

Births

(a)	LIVE		Total	Male	Female
	Legitimate	...	293	157	136
	Illegitimate	...	6	2	4
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			299	159	140
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

(b)	STILL				
	Legitimate		8	3	5
	Illegitimate		—	—	—
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			8	3	5
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Actual Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population		16.07
Standardised birth rate adjusted by comparability factor 1.14)	18.3	(16.1)
Still birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	0.43	(0.37)
Still birth rate per 1,000 of Live and Still Births	26.06	(22.5)

Deaths	Total	Male	Female
	201	108	93
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population			10.81
Standardised death rate adjusted by comparability factor 0.93)		10.06	(11.5)
Deaths from maternal causes		NIL	
Infant Deaths			
(a) Under one month	...	5	
(b) Under one year	...	7	
Infant Death Rate per 1,000 live births		...	23.4 (23.1)

Causes of deaths in children under one year and ages										12 hours
Pulmonary Atelectasis and carebral haemorrhage										2 weeks
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2 days
Prematurity										4 days
Prematurity and hepatic insufficiency										7 days
Congenital abnormalities										3 months
Broncho pneumonia										5 months
"	"	"								

Ages at Death.

Ages in Years	0/1	1/5	5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	75/80	80+	Total
Deaths	7	1	1	4	—	7	9	19	52	46	55	=201

Malignant Tumours - ages at Death

	Stomach		Lung Bronchus		Breast		Uterus	Other Sites		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	F	M	F	M	F
Under 40 years											
40—45											
45—50			1	1		1			1	1	3
50—55								1		1	
55—60	1							1	2	2	2
60—65	1		1	1				1		3	1
65—70		2	1			1		2		3	3
70—75	1						1	1		2	1
75—80								1		1	
83+	3	1						3	2	6	3
Totals	6	3	3	2	—	2	1	10	5	19	13

Causes of Death

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1 (2)
2. Tuberculosis—non respiratory	—	1 (—)
3. Syphilitic disease	2	— (—)
4. Meningococcal infections	1	— (—)
5. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	— (—)
6. Malignant neoplasm—Stomach ...	6	3 (3)
7. Malignant neoplasm—Breast ...	—	2 (3)
8. Malignant neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	3	2 (1)
9. Malignant neoplasm—uterus ...	—	1 (1)

10.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	5	(14)
11.	Leukaemia—aleukaemia	1	—	(—)
12.	Diabetes	1	1	(2)
13.	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	14	16	(35)
14.	Coronary disease, angina ...	10	12	(34)
15.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	(1)
16.	Other heart disease ...	16	15	(32)
17.	Other circulatory disease ...	9	6	(18)
18.	Influenza ...	3	3	(1)
19.	Pneumonia ...	7	3	(11)
20.	Bronchitis ...	5	3	(7)
21.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	(3)
22.	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	(—)
23.	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	(1)
24.	Congenital malformations	—	1	(2)
25.	Other defined and ill defined diseases	9	10	(22)
26.	Motor Vehicle accidents	1	1	(5)
27.	All other accidents	2	4	(5)
		108	93	(203)

Corresponding totals for previous year shown in brackets

SECTION B

Prevalence of and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis notified during 1957, including Service cases.

Disease	Cases Notified	Case rates per 1,000 of estimated population	
Measles	340	18.28	(11.9)
Whooping Cough	70	3.76	(1.9)
Dysentery	8	0.43	(0.66)
Food Poisoning	1	0.05	(0.204)
Pneumonia	14	0.75	(0.73)
Erysipelas	2	0.11	(0.08)
Para-typhoid	1	0.05	(0.007)
Malaria	1	0.05	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	(0.07)
„ Non Paralytic	1	0.05	(0.037)
Total	438	(Brackets = national rates)	

The measles outbreaks, which were extensions of epidemics in the contiguous areas, raged during the middle quarters of the year and, though general in distribution, affected mainly the eastern belt. Whooping cough, on the other hand, was more confined to the south eastern parishes and to Binbrook. One cannot refrain from mentioning the waste of time and money spent in dealing with the notifications of these two diseases, since the information supplied is next to useless as a means of controlling them.

The dysentery and food poisoning cases referred to isolated family infections. The single case of para-typhoid yielded no clue regarding its origin, and it was a tribute to the hygienic care in the household that only one other member of a large family became a temporary excreter of the organism. In a year when poliomyelitis was fairly rife, we were lucky to have to deal only with a single mild clinical case of the disease.

Prophylaxis against Infectious Diseases.

I am indebted to Dr. C. D. Cormac, County Medical Officer of Health, for supplying the following details of the numbers treated during the year in the district against diphtheria, whooping cough and smallpox.

(a) Diphtheria Immunisation.

Under 5 Years	5-14 years	Booster Doses
7	63	284

(b) Whooping Cough (under 5 years).

Under One	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
1	1	—	1	1	4

(c) Combined Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisations (Under five years)

Under one	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
104	54	7	6	5	176

(d) Anti Smallpox

Ages in years	0/1	1/4	5/14	15+	Total
(a) Primary Vaccinations	106	13	7	9	135
(b) Re-vaccinations	—	6	2	14	22

The following shorter summary shows the totals treated under the particular disease heads, with the corresponding figures for 1956 in brackets.

DIPHTHERIA :—

(a) Under 5 years	183 (190)
(b) 5—14 years	63 (72)
(c) Booster shots	284 (279)

WHOOPING COUGH	180 (182)
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SMALL POX :—

(a) Under 5 years	119 (71)
(b) 5—14 years	7 (2)
(c) 15 and upwards	9 (7)

RE-VACCINATIONS :—	22 (18)
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Remarks.

Contrary to the experience of most other areas, there was little or no decline in the numbers immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough, although this might have been expected in view of the national emphasis given to vaccination against poliomyelitis, which had its effect on the routine working. It was a pleasure to note the increase of the primary vaccinations against smallpox.

During the year, extensions of age groups eligible for vaccination against poliomyelitis were made to include children from 6 months to 14 years, and the programme of vaccinations proceeded as vaccine supplies and time allowed.

Tuberculosis was the latest newcomer to the list of diseases for which vaccination protection was offered. The group eligible concerned children between the thirteenth and fourteenth birthdays, and when parental consent was obtained the children were vaccinated if preliminary tests showed the need.

At present, the diseases against which active protection is advised in the first year of life comprise smallpox, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough and usually tetanus. This would provide a formidable list if the antigens had to be given separately, but the County Council made available the stock forms of combined vaccines which allowed the use of the triple combination against diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus as well as variations of the dual vaccine combinations against these diseases, to meet requirements. The saving of time and trouble made the combined forms the popular choice, especially in rural areas, but their use was restricted to the first and fourth quarters of the year for safety reasons,

Tuberculosis : New Cases and Mortality during 1957

Age period (years)	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5			1					
15	1	1						
25				1				
35	1							
45			1		1			
55	1							1
65+	1					1		
Totals	4	1	2	1	1	1	—	1

There were two deaths more than the previous year and these were in the advanced age groups. The year's reduction of pulmonary cases was equated by the increase in notifications of non-pulmonary affections. The latter comprised two bone infections and one of axillary glands.

SECTION C

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln, as in other years, dealt with all the samples examinations required by the Council in connexion with the supervision of water supplies, milk and ice cream, in addition to specimen examinations relating to infectious disease investigation. The number of such examinations done for us totalled 652, and it is a pleasure to pay tribute to the excellence of the service provided.

Chemical analyses required to be done at fee rates by a public analyst who reported on 16 water samples and 3 samples of sewage effluent.

Clinics and Welfare Centres

There were no new welfare centres opened in the district by the County Council during the year. The villages in which welfare centres operated are shown below, with other relevant information kindly supplied by Dr. Cormac, County Medical

Officer. Larger clinics are available in Mablethorpe, Alford, Louth, Market Rasen and Cleethorpes for residents who may find them more convenient.

The County Council sponsored all the provisions for the personal health services, which included the duties performed by health visitors, district nurses and midwives, welfare officers, home helps, school medical, dental, and maternity and child welfare officers.

Centre	Session times	Total infant attendances during 1957	
Binbrook	Each Tuesday	2—4 p.m.	782
Grainthorpe	2nd & 4th Friday	10—12 noon	102
Holton-le-Clay	1st & 3rd. Friday	2—4 p.m.	155
Manby	1st & 3rd Thursday	10—12 noon	580
North Somercotes	1st, 3rd & 5th Friday	10—12 noon	395
Tetney	2nd & 4th Friday	2—4 p.m.—	413

Section 47(1) National Assistance Act, 1948.

Through the co-operation of the area Welfare Officer and the help of good neighbours, ways and means were found, other than by applying the above powers, for effecting the removal to suitable institutions of cases referred under this head. In a few cases, the care and attention for the aged person were reasonably improved by providing a Home Help and supervision by the Health visitor and District nurse.

The grim procedure of securing the removal of an unfortunate person to an institution under a magistrate's order is intended to be exercised only as a last line of defence in the extreme case, but unfortunately there are too frequent requests to use these powers without other possibilities of solution having first been patiently explored.

SECTION D

Environmental Health Services in the area

WATER

(a) Public supplies

Regular samples were taken from points in the district from the various supply sources. Out of the total of 284 samples examined bacteriologically, 6 were classified as doubtful and 8

as unsatisfactory, but these results occasioned no worry following investigation. The reports on quarterly chemical analyses of samples from each of the sources, totalling 16, were all satisfactory.

(b) Private Piped supplies

These estate supplies, which operated in four parishes, were reasonably well maintained. Occasional lapses of attention to the chlorination systems were discovered by our sample taking, which were corrected when attention was called to the matter. In the supervision of these, 144 samples were taken for bacteriological examination.

(c) Private supplies

Samples totalling 72 were taken from individual house and farm supplies either when these were suspect or in the course of routine investigations.

On the completion of the structural work at Stenigot reservoir, bulk supplies of water were able to be given to Horncastle Rural District and, at the same time, the major parts of Stenigot parish were able to be serviced. At the end of the year, the Fulstow—Manby scheme had been released by the Ministry, and there was hope of starting work on the contract which would result in the five villages between the two bores being put on the supply.

Drainage and Sewerage

(a) Closets.

Number of houses with privy vaults	618 (approx)
Number of houses with pail closets	2264 „
Number of houses with water closets	3012 „
Number of conversions from dry system to water closets	178

(b) Cesspools and Septic Tanks.

There were 567 emptyings reported during the year, which was more than double the number done in the previous year. Abolitions were effected in 28 cases where sewer connexion had been made.

(c) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The year brought forth the welcome news that the long expected schemes for extending the sewers in North Thoresby, Tetney and Holton-le-Clay were released by the Ministry, and work on the contracts was started. The schemes in North Thoresby and Tetney represented the second of the three stages of the work necessary for completing the sewerage of these villages. The present contract embraces an area affecting about 100 houses in North Thoresby, and in Tetney about 120 houses

and the village school. In Holton-le-Clay the capacity of the disposal works was in process of being increased to cope with the complete sewerage of the village, which comprised a potential of over 200 houses and the school to be serviced.

The work was also begun for sewer laying in the central parts of North Somercotes and the rehabilitation of the sewage disposal plant which had previously been installed for other purposes.

Three samples of sewage effluent were taken for chemical analysis from each of the works at Binbrook, Ludford and Manby.

Refuse Collection.

Fortnightly collection continued over 71 parishes without any necessitous extension of the service, together with a weekly service for the Royal Air Force stations at Manby, Strubby and North Cotes. The estimated number of premises from which refuse was collected was 4,237.

The method of disposal was by controlled tipping at the conveniently arranged sites over the district.

Rats and Mice destruction.

The Council employed a full time rodent operator to attend to this important angle of disease prevention. Systematic inspections of sewers, sewage disposal works, refuse tips, knackers' yards and other such potential sources of infestation were made, and treatments given as found necessary. In addition, 243 dwelling houses and 77 other premises were treated for infestations of rats and mice.

Reports on other miscellaneous matters.

Premises disinfected and disinfested.

(a)	Disinfections	...	...	1
(b)	Disinfestations	...	...	7

Knackers Yards.

Number of premises licensed	...	...	4
Number of inspections	...	...	26
Contraventions remedied	...	...	16

Nuisances.

Total number of nuisances during the year ;

(a)	Abated as result of informal action by Public Health Inspector	...	...	98
(b)	Reported to Council :			
	(1) Statutory Notice issued	...	...	Nil
	(2) Statutory Notice not issued	...	...	Nil

Shops Act, 1950.

Number of shops inspected	...	...	86
Contraventions remedied	...	...	16
			15

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1. Inspections.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	3	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	69	58	3	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	7	—	—	—
Total	81	61	3	—

2. Defects found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to/by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	—
Unreasonable Temperature	1	1	—
Sanitary Conveniences :			
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—
Totals	8	8	—

3. Outwork.

Nature of work	No. of outworkers from returns submitted	Contraventions
Making etc. Wearing apparel	2	Nil

SECTION E.

Housing

Total number of new houses erected during the year.	67
(1) By the Council	29
(2) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons (including 9 R.A.F. M/Q's)	38
(4) Number allocated for replacing houses subject to Demolition Orders	21
(1) Housing Repairs and Rents Acts 1954-57	
Number of certificates of disrepair issued	Nil
(2) Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year.	
(a) Total number of dwelling houses in- spected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	123
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	287
(3) Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal notices	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	71
(4) Action under Statutory Powers during the year	
(1) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(2) Proceedings under the Housing Acts	Nil
(5) Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts.	
(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	21
(b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	11
	17

(c)	Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, subject to Closing Orders	5
(d)	Number of dwelling-houses or parts, rendered fit by undertakings	1
(e)	Number of dwelling houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders	8
(f)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance thereof	4
(g)	Number of dwelling houses in confirmed Clearance Orders demolished	4
(h)	Number of dwelling houses on which Demolition Orders are operative which are still occupied	7
(6)	Number of Nissen Huts or other similar Hutments still occupied.	0
(7)	Housing Acts—Overcrowding	
(a)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil
(b)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	Not known
(8)	Housing Act, 1949.	
(a)	Number of houses for which applications for grants have been received	117
(b)	Number of houses subject to grant.	117
(c)	Number of houses owned by local authority which have been the subject of grant aid by the Ministry	Nil
(d)	Total number of houses reconditioned by grant aid 31-7-1949 to 31-12-56	243
(9)	Moveable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.	
(a)	Number of Site Licences	3
(b)	Number of individual Licences	24
(c)	Total number of caravans permitted under licences	163
(d)	Number of inspections during the year :—	
	(1) Sites	23
	(2) Dwellings	69
(e)	Number of contraventions remedied	8

Housing.

In pursuance of the slum clearance programme, 21 houses were the subject of individual representation, and a block of eight was defined as a clearance area. The individual representations referred, in the main, to bad properties scattered over the district, found tenanted or vacant, which required to be dealt with without delay. Seven of the total were unoccupied at the time of representation and their re-occupation prevented, while this object was deferred in the case of the others pending the termination of the existing tenancies. A more organised survey was made in two parishes to ascertain the full extent of the housing liabilities and how these fitted in with the local building programme in operation. In the absence of an objection, the Clearance Order for the Wembley Villas, North Somercotes, was confirmed during the year, which allowed four of the houses to be demolished. Inclusive of these, 15 houses were demolished during the period and 25 families were removed from unfit houses.

Out of the 29 houses erected by the Council over five villages, 21 were allocated for slum clearance purposes. At this stage, the type of house building required for slum clearance needs is well known, as also are the faults discovered in the earlier type of bungalows built for housing old folk. Experience proved that the position of the cooking arrangements is a major consideration; and though an expanse of glass may look attractive from the outside, it puts a great strain on the purses of those who can least afford it to provide sufficient heat to keep the rooms reasonably warm during our eight or nine month winter season. Troubles of this nature make the occupants sometimes yearn to be back in the cosy discomfort of their old homes, just as those transferred to badly sound proofed flats regard the improvement in living conditions as a doubtful exchange for the interference with their accustomed peace and quiet.

It is noticed that the Housing and Rents Act, which came into operation during the year, affected us not at all so far as the issue of certificates of disrepair was concerned. With rentals being raised to levels more in keeping with existing circumstances, tenants will be in a position to expect a better standard of maintenance and, over a period, the effects of timely repairs should be reflected in the improved standard of this type of property. From a different angle, the practical application of the facilities available under the Housing Act, 1949, for allowing houses, in suitable cases, to be brought up to modern standards, has probably resulted in considerably reducing the Council's future liabilities under slum clearance. The number of schemes completed by improvement grant aid during the year resulted in

a total of 117 dwellings being modernised, as shown according to the disposition of these under the housing survey categories :—

Category	1	2	3	4	5	Unclassified	Total
Houses	Nil	22	34	41	3	17	117

This brought the total number of houses reconditioned by grant aid since the operation of the Act to the respectable figure of 360.

SECTION F

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The following summary, provided by the chief public health inspector, shows the position at the end of the year regarding the progress made in having the structural and equipment requirements under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 carried out.

Mr. Shone stated that in the majority of cases the outstanding work was in progress of receiving attention. The delays, it would seem, were occasioned by a variety of circumstances, such as changes of ownership or having to overcome difficulties of a special nature. Mr. Shone intended bringing to the notice of the Committee the few cases which were proving difficult unless they availed of their final warning.

Type of Premises	Total Number	Number where work is completed	Number where work is outstanding
Butcher Shops	11	10	1
Fried Fish Shops	9	7	2
Bakehouses	9	8	1
Cafes	3	2	1
General Village Shops	94	65	29

This stark summary may conceal the useful work accomplished by attention given to the supervision of food premises and workers, because the routine inspections and advisory talks belong to the "back room" work that is so essential for maintaining the day to day observance of the prescribed ritual. The brief reports which follow deal with the visits paid to the various types of food premises and the enumeration of the faults, as supplied by the chief public health inspector. The visits included those paid for general supervisory purposes and sample taking as well as those concerned with the fulfilment of obligations under the Food Hygiene Regulations. It will be noted that over 400 visits were reported made to food premises.

Bakehouses

Number in district	...	...	9
Number of inspections	...	...	46
Number of contraventions	...	...	37
Defects remedied	...	...	20

Meat Products

Number of premises registered for manufacturing of meat products	...	...	...	13
Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	56
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	6
Remedied	...	...	...	5

Other Food Premises

Number of inspections	...	...	194
Number of contraventions	...	...	112
Remedied	...	...	149

Ice Cream

120 Inspections were reported made during the year.

There were three manufacturers registered and 70 premises licensed for sale. Sample taking which had been neglected the previous year was resumed, and out of the 59 samples submitted for examination only 2 did not come up to the satisfactory standard. As these two were from local production we were able to have the faults rectified immediately.

Milk

The distributors on the register for the year comprised the following :—

Sterilized	31
Pasteurized	21
T.T. Raw	17
Undesignated	16 producer retailers

The results of sample examinations were :—

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested-Raw	2	2
Non-designated	8	1

In addition, 32 samples were sent for biological examination in co-operation with the County Council scheme and, of these, two were found positive for tubercle and eight positive for brucella. Suitable action was taken by the County Authority in

these cases for locating and dealing with the cause of infection. Our main interest was concerned with any retail of such milk, unless pasteurised, until the source of trouble had been eliminated

Meat

As in previous years three slaughter houses were registered, which were reported well maintained with excellent co-operation from the owners in all matters pertaining to the trade. The number of animals killed was 466, all of which carcasses were examined after slaughtering. This represents a slight falling off in the numbers slaughtered compared with the previous year total of 542. The percentage of carcasses found to be affected with tuberculosis was higher than that found in the district recently, but when dealing with small numbers, variations of this kind may not have much significance.

The condemned meat was disposed of to fellmongers after it had been suitably impregnated with aniline dye.

The following table gives details of the examinations and condemnations.

Unsound Food

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excl'ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	134 (116)	9 (28)	—	260(293)	63 (105)
Number inspected	134	9	—	260	63
(a) All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticeri					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	2	—	3	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and Cysticeri	1.49 (3.44)	22.2 (10.7)	—	1.15 (—)	1.50 (—)
(b) Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	3	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.75 (2.59)	33.33 (17.86)	—	—	7.69 (5.71)
(c) Cysticeri					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

N.B Brackets refer to figures of the previous year

Other foodstuffs condemned.

The only general foodstuffs surrendered as unfit were 12 lbs. of minced beef and two tons of cabbages on account of decomposition. These were buried.

